

VZCZCXRO7181
PP RUEHDE
DE RUEHKU #0410 0371458
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 061458Z FEB 06
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2895
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

UNCLAS KUWAIT 000410

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FOR NEA/ARPI, INL/HSTC AND G/TIP

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [ELAB](#) [KCRM](#) [KU](#) [TIP](#)
SUBJECT: ROBOTS REQUIRED AT KUWAIT CAMEL RACING
CHAMPIONSHIPS

REF: A. KUWAIT 107

- [1](#)B. 05 KUWAIT 4914 MINISTER AL-HAJJI DISCUSSES
COMBATTING TIP...
- [1](#)C. 05 KUWAIT 4477 ROBOT CAMEL JOCKEYS DEBUT IN KUWAIT
- [1](#)D. 05 KUWAIT 4031 TIP UPDATE: MINISTER SAYS GOK
WILL "MAXIMIZE EFFORTS AND MINIMIZE
TIME" IN IMPROVING TIP CONDITIONS
- [1](#)E. 05 KUWAIT 3640 GOK ASSIGNS INSPECTORS TO ENFORCE
CAMEL JOCKEY BAN
- [1](#)F. 05 KUWAIT 2863 COORDINATED GOK ANTI-TIP EFFORT
UNDERWAY
- [1](#)G. 05 KUWAIT 1517 AMBASSADOR ENCOURAGES GOK TO
ENFORCE UNDERAGE CAMEL JOCKEY BAN...
- [1](#)H. 04 KUWAIT 1105 TIP: MINISTERIAL DECREE BANS
UNDER-18 CAMEL RACERS

[1](#)1. On February 5, Poloff and LES Pol Assistant attended the opening day of the Sixth Annual Camel Racing Championship, which runs through February 9. Robots have been used in the more minor races leading up to this event (ref A). This was the first of the annual championship races in Kuwait, however, in which robotic jockeys were used in place of human jockeys.

[1](#)2. Ahmad Al-Khazaal, Director of the International Relations Department of the Public Authority for Youth and Sports, told Poloff that camel owners were initially resistant to using robots, but are now happy with their performance. Some owners have told him that the robots are more economical than human jockeys in the long run (he estimated the purchase price at about \$600) and that they are pleased with new, improved models coming from Asia. Rabeea Faraj Al-Ajmi, Director of the Kuwait Camel Racing Club, was less enthusiastic. He said the robots were "not bad" and that camel owners have adapted to the situation.

[1](#)3. The event included camels from all six Gulf countries. According to Al-Khazaal, the use of robotic jockeys was a prerequisite for participating in the race. Ambassador plans to attend the closing event on Thursday.

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